GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LAW AND JUSTICE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:464
ANSWERED ON:14.07.2014
FRANCHISE BY ARMED FORCES
Singh Shri Sunil Kumar

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the procedure adopted so far for the Officers and Other Ranks of the three wings of armed forces to exercise their franchise;

(b) the percentage of the such personnel who have exercised their right to vote in the recent past;

(c) whether this percentage has been very low:

(d) if so. the reasons therefor; and

(e) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to simplify the said procedure?

Answer

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) As per the provisions of clause (a) of Section 60 of the Representation of the People Act 1951, the members of the armed forces of the Union, and the members of a force to which the provisions of the Army Act 1950 are made applicable whether with or without modifications, can vote either in person or by postal ballot or by proxy.

(b)to (d) The Election Commission has informed that it has no data of jawans and officers who had voted in the recent General Election to Lok Sabha. However, as per the provisional dala available with the Election Commission, the total number of voters who voted through Postal Ballot at the recent Lok Sabha election is 931790 which include all categories of service voters, special voters, voters on preventive detention and the persons appointed on election duty.

(e) In the context of the recent General Elections, the Election Commission issued instructions relaxing the norms relating to the period of tenure posting for registration of service personnel, who have been posted at a peace station on 01.01.2014 and continues to be posted there on the date of commencement of election process, as general elector subject to fulfillment of other conditions.